



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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"Welcome Home, Vietnam Veterans" event honors, thanks veterans

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Department of Military & Veteran Affairs is proud to announce its partnership in the Vietnam War Commemorative Partners Program, organized to help a grateful nation thank and honor America's Vietnam veterans and their families for service, valor and sacrifice as part of the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary.

DMVA will kick off the partnership with a celebration, "Welcome Home, Vietnam Veterans," Saturday, March 29 at the William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center, 555 W. 5th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska. Doors will open at 4 p.m. with vendors offering services. The official ceremony runs from 6-7 p.m. with a Vietnam War panel hosted by the Alaska Veterans Museum from 7-9 p.m.

"We are elated and proud that the State of Alaska has joined the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration to honor veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for this nation," said Verdie Bowen, director of the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs. "Many have given their lives, to include those who returned with a large portion of their innocence forever gone."

The Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home celebration will also be held in Fairbanks with a kick off March 29 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, William Ransom Wood Center Ball Room, 505 South Chandalar. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., and the event runs until 3 p.m.

"I have to give our Vietnam veterans tremendous credit for their leadership and for their willingness to ensure that all veterans have total access to earned benefits," Bowen said. "Our Vietnam veterans have passed to this nation a legacy that we will always respect and honor returning warriors, support each one individually and stand behind their families collectively. I believe their bravery, resourcefulness and patriotism marks them as America's finest citizens. I am honored to welcome home Alaska's Vietnam veterans."

Through the partnership agreement with the Department of Defense, Alaska will continue to properly honor and welcome home Vietnam veterans until all have been welcomed home.

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For more information, contact the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs at (907)334-0872 or visit www.veterans.alaska.gov.

For more information on the Fairbanks welcome home celebration, contact Julie Engfer Jones at (907)456-1984.